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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION
Land Utilization Division
Land Use Planning Section



BULLETIN OF FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION AFFECTING LAND USE

No. 23

Week Ending June 10, 1937

(Primarily for the information of Land Use Planning Personnel
of the Resettlement Administration and collaborating offices
and agencies.)

Legislatures - Regular Session

California adjourned May 28	Massachusetts adjourned May 29
Florida adjourned June 4	Pennsylvania adjourned June 5

Legislatures - Special Session

Arizona - 1st Special Session adjourned May 29

Legislatures now in Special Session

Arizona 2nd Special Session	Minnesota	Texas
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Legislatures now in Regular Session

Connecticut	Michigan	New Jersey
Illinois	Missouri	Wisconsin
	New Hampshire	

I. FEDERAL LEGISLATION

HYDRO ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT

S. 2555. Mr. Norris.

H. R. 7392. Mr. Rankin.

To create Conservation Authorities in the 7 drainage basins of the United States for the purpose of developing and coordinating plans and projects for the promotion of navigation, flood control, and reclamation. An Authority is created, as a corporation, for the drainage basins as follows: (1) The Atlantic Seaboard Authority, for the drainage basins of the rivers flowing into the Atlantic Ocean and of the rivers flowing into the Gulf of Mexico, from the east, below the basin of the Suwanee River; (2) the Great Lakes-Ohio Valley Authority, for the basins of the rivers flowing into any of the Great Lakes and of the Ohio River, except the drainage basins of the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, and of the rivers flowing into the Mississippi River above Cairo, Illinois, from the

east; (3) the Tennessee Valley Authority, for the drainage basins of the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, of the rivers flowing into the Mississippi River below Cairo, Illinois, from the east; and of the rivers flowing into the Gulf of Mexico east of the Mississippi River, except the rivers below the basin of the Suwanee River; (4) the Missouri Valley Authority, for the drainage basins within the United States of the Missouri River and the Red River of the North and of the rivers flowing into the Mississippi River above Cairo, Illinois, from the west; (5) The Arkansas Valley Authority, for the drainage basins within the United States of the Arkansas, Red, and Rio Grande Rivers, of the rivers flowing into the Mississippi River below Cairo, Illinois, from the west, and of the rivers flowing into the Gulf of Mexico west of the Mississippi River; (6) the Southwestern Authority, for the drainage basins within the United States of the Colorado River and the rivers flowing into the Pacific Ocean south of the California-Oregon line, and the Great Basin; that is, the drainage basins of the rivers in the western United States having no outlet to the sea; and (7) the Columbia Valley Authority, for the drainage basins within the United States of the Columbia River and the rivers flowing into the Pacific Ocean north of the California-Oregon line: Provided, however, That nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the functions, powers, or duties of the Mississippi River Commission. The President is authorized to more specifically define or redefine the boundaries when necessary to facilitate regional development. The Columbia Valley Authority shall take over the Bonneville project and complete and operate it. The Tennessee Valley Authority shall continue as now functioning expanded by this Act. Each Authority shall be under direction of a Board of 3 appointed by the President. The Authority shall have corporate powers and in addition power to acquire and dispose of property except the disposal of dams and power plans, and may do any act necessary to carry out the powers conferred. The Authority shall be supervised by the President who may consult and advise with a council (Director of Budget, Chairman of the National Resources Committee and any other he deems advisable) for proper conformity of regional policies. The Authorities shall make surveys and studies necessary to coordinate projects and activities and to avoid duplication of effort to study the plans and projects of governmental departments and agencies relating to the promotion of navigation, flood control, reclamation, and soil conservation, and insofar as practicable, integrate such projects and cooperate with the field offices of the governmental agencies. Annually the Authorities shall submit to the President plans for construction projects, and plans for development and if he approve such plans they shall be referred to Congress with his recommendations for such plans including navigation, flood control and prevention, soil conservation, abatement of water pollution, reclamation, hydro electric development. Current not needed for use in the operation of any projects may be sold, preference to be given states and municipalities.

The consent of Congress is given to states to enter into agreements to assist in carrying out the purposes of this Act. All private projects for dams or projects for flood control, water pollution, affecting public lands or property of the United States must be approved by the authority of the region.

To Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, June 3.

H. R. 7365. Mr. Mansfield.

This Bill is similar to S. 2555 except: That in place of Corporate Authorities provision is made for Regional Planning Agencies as instrumentalities of the United States governed by a director and regional conservation Committee. Title II authorizes the President to establish corporate power authorities to develop hydro-electric power, with the same powers relative to Hydro electric development and distribution of current as the authorities in S. 2555.

To Committee on Rivers and Harbors, June 3.

RESETTLEMENT

H. R. 7391. Mr. Lemke.

To authorize an appropriation of \$500,000,000 to the Resettlement Administration for the maintenance of destitute farmers, and resettling and rehabilitating farmers in the drought area. The Resettlement Administration is directed in cooperation with States to resettle destitute farmers, assist in enlarging existing farms and the construction of dams to promote livestock raising, and make rehabilitation loans.

To Committee on Agriculture, June 4.

II. STATE LEGISLATION

(Includes only outstanding proposals likely to be of interest to Legislatures other than the one in which the Bill is introduced.)

DRAINAGE

Nebraska. Bill No. 522. Messrs. Daffoe and Norton.

To codify the procedure under the law authorizing the organization of public power and irrigation districts.

Approved May 15.

New Hampshire. H. B. 475. Committee on Rules.

To provide for cooperation with the Merrimac River Valley Flood Control Commission and to comply with the interstate compact concerning flood control on the River by authorizing the acquisition of lands, easements and rights-of-way for carrying out flood control projects.

To Committee on Appropriations and Judiciary, May 25.

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

Florida. H. B. 1832. Mr. Sikes.

To authorize the Governor to appoint a Commission of 9 non-official members to make investigation and research into the administration of State and local affairs and recommend legislation to promote efficiency and economy.

To Judiciary "A", May 27.

INTERSTATE COMPACTS

Connecticut. H. B. 1659. Committee on Finance.

To ratify the compact with Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont, for the control of floods in the Connecticut River Valley.

To Committee on Appropriations, May 25.

Massachusetts. S. B. 426.

To ratify a compact with Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Vermont, relative to flood control in the Connecticut River Valley.

Approved May 29, Laws 1937, Chapter 402.

New Hampshire. H. B. 476. Committee on Rules.

To ratify a compact with the State of Massachusetts for the control of floods in the Merrimack River Basin.

To Committee on Appropriations and Judiciary, May 25.

LAND USE

Delaware. H. B. 254. Mr. Butler.

To accept the provisions of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, and designating the University of Delaware as the agency of the State to carry out the policies and the purposes of the Act and to formulate and administer State plans pursuant to the Act.

Approved May 20.

Maryland. H. B. 336. Mr. Clark.

To accept the provisions of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act and appoint the University of Maryland as the State's agency to formulate plans pursuant to the Act and upon approval by the Secretary of Agriculture administer such plans. The University shall accept and utilize any grants made pursuant to the Act.

Approved May 28, Laws 1937, Chapter 220.

Massachusetts. H. B. 1588. Committee on Agriculture.

To accept the provisions of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act designating the Massachusetts State College as the agency of the State to prepare and administer plans in accordance with the Act.

Approved May 27, Laws 1937, Chapter 374.

New York. H. B. 2244. Mr. Allen.

To accept the provisions of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act and designate Cornell University as the agency of the State to formulate and administer approved plans pursuant to the Act. The University is authorized to establish an Agricultural Conservation Board of 5 to advise and consult with the University

in the administration and formulation of agricultural plans.
Approved May 25, Laws 1937, Chapter 615.

PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS

Connecticut. H. B. 1548. Committee on State Parks and Reservations.
To authorize the Commission on Forests and Wild Life to acquire or lease property for development as state forests or parks and enter cooperative agreements with the Federal Government for the administration of such lands.
Approved May 25, Laws 1937, Chapter 196.

REAL PROPERTY

Arizona. H. B. 4XX. Mr. Wisener.
To stay foreclosure of mortgages for a period not longer than March 4, 1939.
Introduced June 2.

Pennsylvania. H. B. 645. Messrs. Patterson and Ruffennach.
To authorize municipalities and counties to aid housing projects by the furnishing of parks, playgrounds, streets, and improvements. Agreements may be entered into for the cost of such improvements and public services and facilities for the benefit of such housing projects.
Approved May 26, Laws 1937, Act 232.

Pennsylvania. H. R. 753. Mr. Patterson.
To create housing authorities in cities and counties to be appointed by the governing body upon a finding that conditions warrant the construction of low-cost housing projects. The Authorities are to cooperate with State and Federal Housing Authorities.
Approved May 28, Laws 1937, Act 265.

TAXATION

Tennessee. S. B. 504. Mr. Haynes.
To exempt from taxation property and bonds of housing authorities. In lieu of such taxes or special assessments housing authorities may agree to make payments to any political subdivision for services, improvements, or facilities furnished by such political subdivisions for the benefit of the housing projects.
Approved May 21, Public Acts 1937, Chapter 214.

H. A. Hockley

